

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS
DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
P.O. BOX 451
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

PUBLIC NOTICE OF RULE NUMBER W6 3758

TO: The Honorable Delbert Hosemann
Secretary of State
P.O. Box 136
Jackson, MS 39205
AND
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, at a meeting in Crawford, Mississippi on May 24, 2011, under authority of Section 25-43-3.103, Mississippi Code of 1972, adopted the following **2011 Public Waters Alligator Hunting Seasons**. This was done under authority of Sections 49-1-29 and 49-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972.

Be it ordered Public Notice W5 3758 is hereby repealed, and the following 2011 Public Waters Alligator Hunting Seasons regulations are adopted.

An American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) hunting season will be opened in the State of Mississippi and is hereby referred to as the following with described restrictions:

The “**Pearl River/Ross Barnett Reservoir - Alligator Hunting Season (Pearl Zone)**” will be opened in Rankin, Madison, and Scott Counties in the public waters of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District. The hunting zone boundaries are described as only within the area north of a line from Fannin Landing to Channel Marker “A” to the Natchez Trace Overlook on the main lake of Ross Barnett Reservoir, and south of Lowhead Dam on the Pearl River (excluding all areas of the main lake that are west of the Natchez Trace, i.e. North Bay and Twin Harbors), according to restrictions below.

In addition, an alligator hunting season, hereby referred to as the “**Pascagoula River - Alligator Hunting Season (Pascagoula Zone)**” will be opened in Jackson County. The hunting zone is restricted to the public waters of the Pascagoula River and its tributaries only within Jackson County, excluding areas south of Hwy 90 according to restrictions below.

BASIC REGULATIONS: (All Zones)

Persons eligible: Only residents of the State of Mississippi who are sixteen (16) years of age or older may apply for an Alligator Possession Permit (*see License Requirements*).
Non-residents may participate as alligator hunting assistants (*see License Requirements*).

Public Notice of Rule Number W6 3758

Bag limit: Each person receiving an Alligator Possession Permit will be allowed to harvest two (2) alligators four (4) feet in length or longer, only one (1) of which may exceed seven (7) feet in length.

Capture and Dispatch Methods:

Use of bait is prohibited.

Alligators must be captured alive prior to shooting or otherwise dispatching the animal. It is unlawful to kill an unrestrained alligator. Restrained is defined as an alligator that has a noose or snare secured around the neck or leg in a manner that the alligator is controlled. Capture methods are restricted to hand-held snares, snatch hooks (hand-held or rod/reel), harpoons (with attached line/buoy), and bowfishing equipment (w/ line attached from bow to arrow or line/buoy) (no broadheads). The use of fishing lures or other devices (with hooks attached) for the purpose of catching alligators in the mouth is prohibited.

All alligators must be dispatched or released immediately after capture. Any alligator that is captured with a harpoon or bowfishing equipment must be reduced to the bag and may not be released. Firearms used for dispatching an alligator are restricted to long-barreled shotguns with shot size no larger than #6 and bangsticks chambered in .38 caliber or larger. All shotguns and bangsticks must be cased and unloaded at all times until a restraining line has been attached to the alligator. No other firearm or ammunition may be in possession of the permittee or hunting party. No firearm or bangstick may be discharged within 100 yards of any residence, building, boat ramp, or occupied campsite. Any person or vessel that possesses equipment used to capture or harvest an alligator must be in the immediate vicinity of a person who possesses a valid Alligator Possession Permit at any time while located in the hunting area.

The possession of alcohol or alcoholic beverages is prohibited for any person in the act of alligator hunting, nor may it be contained in any vessel in the act of alligator hunting.

License Requirements:

Alligator Hunting Permittee: All alligator hunting permittees must purchase and have on their person an Alligator Hunting License and Alligator Possession Permit. In addition, a combination resident hunting/fishing license is required to purchase the Alligator Possession Permit and Alligator Hunting License. The cost of the Alligator Hunting

Public Notice of Rule Number W6 3758

License is twenty-five dollars (\$25). The cost of the Alligator Possession Permit is one hundred dollars (\$100). A "WMA User Permit" is required for all persons, unless otherwise exempt, who are hunting or accessing any MDWFP operated Wildlife Management Area within a hunting zone. *All licenses are non-refundable.*

Alligator Hunting Assistant: All residents in the hunting party who are sixteen (16) years of age or older are required to purchase and have on their person a combination hunting/fishing license and an Alligator Hunting License. Any non-residents in the hunting party who are sixteen (16) years of age or older are required to purchase and have on their person a NR-All Game Hunting License and an Alligator Hunting License. A "WMA User Permit" is required for all persons, unless otherwise exempt, who are hunting or accessing any MDWFP operated Wildlife Management Area within a hunting zone. *All licenses are non-refundable.*

Applications: (See specific information for each Zone).

Training Course: (See specific information for each Zone).

Check Station (not mandatory for 2011): (See specific information for each Zone).

Harvest Reporting: (See specific information for each Zone).

Go to <http://home.mdwfp.com/wildlife/species/alligator/default.aspx> for more information on alligators and alligator hunting in Mississippi.

SPECIFIC REGULATIONS:

Pearl River/Ross Barnett Reservoir-Alligator Hunting Season (Pearl Zone)

Location: The hunting zone includes the public waters of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District in Rankin, Madison, and Scott Counties only within the area north of a line from Fannin Landing to Channel Marker "A" to the Natchez Trace

Overlook on the main lake of Ross Barnett Reservoir and south of the Lowhead Dam on the Pearl River (excluding all areas of the main lake that are west of the Natchez Trace, i.e. North Bay and Twin Harbor).

Public Notice of Rule Number W6 3758

Dates: September 09, 2011 (Pearl Hunt #1)
September 10, 2011 (Pearl Hunt #2)
September 16, 2011 (Pearl Hunt #3)
September 17, 2011 (Pearl Hunt #4)

Hunting Hours: 12:00 NOON until 6:00 AM CST

Permits: Two hundred forty (240) persons (60 hunters per day) will be randomly drawn by computer to be eligible for an Alligator Possession Permit. Possession permits are not transferrable.

Applications: Applications for permits will be accepted from June 1-15, 2011. Application must be submitted electronically through a POS license terminal (anywhere that hunting/fishing licenses are sold). A non-refundable application fee of \$5 will be charged. Only applications received on or before June 15 will be eligible. Only one application may be submitted per person per zone. Any person submitting multiple applications will be disqualified from the drawing process. All drawn applicants will be notified by mail.

Validation of selected applicants: Upon receipt of notification of having been drawn, all selected applicants must validate their notification on-line and register for an alligator training course or verify previous attendance to a training course. Selected applicants must validate on-line by July 1, 2011. Persons failing to validate by July 1 will be replaced with substitute applicants. Validation instructions will be included in the notification letter to all selected applicants.

Training course: All persons drawn for an alligator hunting permit must attend or have previously attended a Mississippi Alligator Hunting Training Course. Alligator Training Courses will be held August 6th at 9AM and 1:30PM at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS. An Alligator Training Course will be held August 13th at 9AM at the East Central Community Center, which is between Wade and Hurley Mississippi on Hwy 613 in Jackson County.

Check Station: Alligator permittees and harvested alligators are NOT required to be checked-in at the checking station for the 2011 season. However, the checking station will be open during set hours for voluntary check-in of harvested alligators. Participants who bring their harvest to the checking station will receive their permanent federal CITES possession tags at that time. (*See Harvest Report Cards*).

Harvest Reporting and Tagging: Two Temporary Possession Tags will be mailed to all selected applicants who validate their notification on-line by July 1, 2011. The Temporary Alligator Possession Tags are not valid without a current Alligator

Public Notice of Rule Number W6 3758

Possession Permit. A tag must be attached to the alligator immediately after being dispatched and prior to moving or transporting.

HARVEST REPORT CARDS: Each permittee will be mailed a Harvest Report Card. All permittees must return a completed Harvest Report Card to the MDWFP, as directed. Failure to comply will result in loss of alligator hunting privileges the following year. Federal CITES tags will be mailed to permittees upon receipt of completed Harvest Report Cards.

Pascagoula River-Alligator Hunting Season (Pascagoula Zone)

Location: The hunting zone is restricted to the public waters of the Pascagoula River and its tributaries only within Jackson County, excluding all areas south of Hwy 90. No hunting is allowed in any public water that is landlocked (lakes, sloughs, ponds, etc.).

Dates: September 23, 2011 (Pascagoula Hunt #1)
September 24, 2011 (Pascagoula Hunt #2)
September 30, 2011 (Pascagoula Hunt #3)
October 1, 2011 (Pascagoula Hunt #4)

Hunting Hours: 12:00 NOON until 6:00 AM CST

Permits: Two hundred forty (240) persons (60 hunters per day) will be randomly drawn by computer to be eligible for an Alligator Possession Permit. Possession permits are not transferrable.

Applications: Applications for permits will be accepted from June 1-15, 2011. Application must be submitted electronically through a POS license terminal (anywhere that hunting/fishing licenses are sold). A non-refundable application fee of \$5 will be charged. Only applications received on or before June 15 will be eligible. Only one application may be submitted per person per zone. Any person submitting multiple applications will be withdrawn from the drawing process. All drawn applicants will be notified by mail.

Validation of selected applicants: Upon receipt of notification of having been drawn, all selected applicants must validate their notification on-line and register for an alligator training course or verify previous attendance to a training course. Selected applicants must validate on-line by July 1, 2011. Persons failing to validate by July 1 will be replaced with substitute applicants. Validation instructions will be included in the notification letter to all selected applicants.

Training course: All persons drawn for an alligator hunting permit must attend or have

Public Notice of Rule Number W6 3758

previously attended a Mississippi Alligator Hunting Training Course. Alligator Training Courses will be held August 6th at 9AM and 1:30PM at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS. An Alligator Training Course will be held August 13th at 9AM at the East Central Community Center, which is between Wade and Hurley Mississippi on Hwy 613 in Jackson County.

Check Station: Alligators are NOT required to be checked-in at the checking station for the 2011 season. However, the checking station will be open during set hours for voluntary check-in of harvested alligators. Participants who bring their harvest to the checking station will receive their permanent federal CITES possession tags at that time.

Harvest Reporting and Tagging: Two Temporary Possession Tags will be mailed to all selected applicants who validate their notification on-line by July 1, 2011. The Temporary Alligator Possession Tags are not valid without a current Alligator Possession Permit. A tag must be attached to the alligator immediately after being dispatched and prior to moving or transporting.

HARVEST REPORT CARDS: Each permittee will be mailed a Harvest Report Card. All permittees must return a completed Harvest Report Card to the MDWFP as directed. Failure to comply will result in loss of alligator hunting privileges the following year. Federal CITES tags will be mailed to permittees upon receipt of completed Harvest Report Cards.

Any person violating the regulations set forth in this document is guilty, upon conviction, of a Class I offense and is punishable as provided in MS CODE §49-7-141.

Public Notice of Rule Number W6 3758

This adopted public notice will become effective June 24, 2011.
Witness my hand and seal this the 24th day of May 2011.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: Charles Rigdon
Charles Rigdon, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: Sam Polles
Sam Polles, Ph.D., Executive Director



Sally L. Sutherland
NOTARY

(SEAL)